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AGOSTI DISCUSSES POLITICAL ROLE OF MILITARY

PY080352Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0147 GMT 8 Jul 78 PY

[Speech by Air Force Commander Lt Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti at annual armed forces fellowship dinner to celebrate Argentine independence anniversary held in Buenos Aires--live]

[Excerpts] For the last time, indeed, we, the commanders in chief, are participating in this dinner as members of the military junta which, in the name of the armed forces, made the historic decision to assume national political power and to sign the basic documents of the national reorganization process.

The March 1976 documents, the essential support of the process, became its legal starting point for amending the national constitution to make it more feasible. Besides, its adaptation to the difficult circumstances of the first and more serious stages shows that the military uprising was correctly worked out, studied and submitted for consideration, and not a fit of rage because of personal dissatisfaction with some irrelevant situation.

The first military junta has the honor and the responsibility not only of having participated in the uprising, but also of having changed the previous disorder, legalizing its own existence by creating rules of the game which, since then, have become the cornerstone of the national reorganization process and the supreme national law. These rules and the national constitution--the passages not amended by them--have established a mechanism institutionalizing a relationship among power [the military junta] government and community, which has demonstrated its value in practice by enabling confrontation of armed aggression and social and economic difficulties which, inherited from the previous regime, were unprecedented in national history.

The success of the process is based on some fundamental premises which are quite distinctive. In this process there do not nor will there exist providential men who may be exclusively charged with the task of leading the nation down a new path. On providing a mechanism to periodically replace the commanders in chief who make up the supreme government, the 1976 documents also guarantee the elimination of personalism, the perpetuation of the system and a method to prolong the process through time while new foundations of the nation are being built.

The incorporation of new men into the supreme government and the implementation of fundamental ideas and principles will force the process to renew itself and to generate its own successors. This flexibility in leadership, which has been denied to the country for a good part of the current century, is the fundamental principle of the system's stability. It avoids the freezing of political roles and the lack of vertical rotation which may create, by force, explosive situations.

This process is irreversible, not because of the perpetuation in office of men, but because of the immutability of its principles. The first is circumstantial, while the latter is permanent. With them as supreme guide we will build the desired country.

Much has been said and much has been written, and much have we suffered by adding up unpleasant experiences. It is not a question of deepening old wounds. Let it only be a warning to avoid forgetfulness and to avoid listening again to those who are trying to sell us a scheme which may force us to relinquish power completely through a coercive, more dishonorable process.

One cannot overlook past events in the country while contributing toward building the country's future.

In this continuous replacement of the top armed forces leaders, it is important that we who have lived through the toughest periods in the recent past may pass along the testimony of that experience to our successors. Then, they who will go through the next stage will become aware of the accumulated experience and will not allow themselves to fall into the same mistakes which led the country to incredibly critical situations.

The enemy has been defeated but has not been wiped out. His field of action was transferred to other areas in the world and, in our country, direct fighting was changed to ideological penetration, with the goal of continuing destructive action, spreading confusion and discouragement.

A discrediting campaign, of which our country is the victim, shows that the enemy is still active. We have often learned that mass communication media in important capitals of the world are made available to Argentine subversive terrorists who are fugitive and who try to discredit us.

This artful though distant confrontation is as dangerous as the previous one and is aimed at the same thing: to sink us in a world marked by totalitarianism and slavery. But we will also succeed in this encounter by confronting the false verbosity of our enemies with our faith in God, our love for the fatherland, our bent for freedom, belief in the individual's freedom of choice and strong opposition to atheism and materialism. We have restored rights by virtue of the law prevailing over any type of coercion and we have restored the exercise of the rights and duties of citizens.

Clear action at the international level has restored the confidence and respect which our country used to enjoy among all nations. Thanks to daily and continued work, our situation and the progress of our process are well known and understood. We have stopped the shameless exhibition of our shortcomings and we have stopped begging for help to solve the problems created by the negligence of our leaders. Today we can negotiate as equals and from a strong position.

We are jealous defenders of the principle of total sovereignty and opposed to the recent development of imperialist infiltration called limited sovereignty. This is why we do not accept the existence of pseudosovereign zones in the world, nor do we accept the fact that certain regions are open to negotiation. As we fully accept others' sovereignty, thus we defend and will defend our own to the end. Therefore, we do not accept any nation or institution passing judgment on the mechanisms which our country believes to be appropriate for defining its internal policy or which are adequate for achieving its political objectives.

We Argentines are forerunners in the question of and jealous defenders of human rights. This is why, without the need for internal wars, Argentina abolished slavery in 1813, more than 150 years ago, as a natural consequence of the principle of freedom and respect for the human being which motivated emancipation and national organization.

As March 1976 became a historical turning point which concluded a political stage and in which the fight with subversive terrorism was fully joined, this July 1978 is a new turning point in which the armed struggle ended. We must emphasize the laying of the foundations of the new Argentine society.

Somehow the first stage of this process means the blowing away of the past, eliminating the principal reasons for not having a future. Today we must place emphasis on all that means changing the closed structures of our society in order to create the basis of a free country, with free men, which we can leave as an inheritance for our children. Today we must think about a real country without pursuing utopian projects which generate false expectations which are impossible to achieve. Therefore, we must be prudent in our plans by defining objectives which are achievable within a reasonable period of time. In this sense, political insight advises that we build in a practical manner, every day, the real country which we desire.

As a sovereign and free country, we must create our own system for our nation which will insure the freedom and rights of all the inhabitants of this land and which will keep them safe from the aggressions which are suffered today by those who claim freedom but in reality let it be taken away.

We must also outline our own path in order to achieve this real country. It will be gradual, controlled, a path in which the process for national reorganization will reproduce itself, in which the participation of citizens will be progressive, increasing in relation to their virtues, and in which the process insures that the objectives of the process will be implemented and not canceled out.

Probably the most glorious task of the process for national reorganization has finished with the conclusion of the armed struggle. But the task which requires maximum capability, imagination, courage, spirit of sacrifice and selflessness still has to be carried out. It is the daily task of building renewed and useful structures for this, our dear fatherland. This fundamental action will not be done in 1 day nor will it be played out in one act. This is the challenge which will take whole generations which, it so happens, will be registered in the decade of the eighties.

Gentlemen, with the always renewed commitment of defending the ideals which we inherited from our forefathers, I invite you to drink a toast. Gentlemen, to the fatherland.

INVITATION TO IHRC CALLED DEPLORABLE BY LA PRENSA

PY0819211 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jul 78 p 4 PY

[Editorial: "The Eighth OAS Assembly"]

[Excerpts] The OAS has ended its eighth assembly after 10 days of sessions. It approved resolutions confirming the condemnation of international terrorism and the reports by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission on alleged violations of human rights in Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile. The juridicial and human rights commissions of the organization also received instructions to work on the text of a convention defining torture as an international crime. The assembly concluded its meeting by approving a proposal by Costa Rica that its capital should be the seat of a future inter-American human rights court, to be created when the multilateral human rights convention becomes effective.

A Jamaican motion, which was rejected by the assembly despite the important support of the United States, recognized the "right of oppressed peoples to struggle for freedom." The wording is most ambiguous and therefore dangerous. It would be the first step, taken by a Caribbean nation with a colored population, toward a racism which is the reverse of what has, so far, been conventionally known as racism.

During the assembly the OAS escaped having to deal positively and effectively with the essential political problems which burden the continent. This is certainly not done by pointing out alleged violations of human rights in Uruguay, Chile and Paraguay. It would be necessary to sound a warning backed by the necessary moral authority since the human rights situation in Cuba was passed over in silence as well as Cuba's status as a satellite of the Soviet Union, openly interfering in the present African bloodbath on behalf of international Marxist-Leninism.

The defense of the West would have been favorably impressed by a unanimous and strong voice raised by the OAS assembly, openly condemning international terrorism and making an accusation that it is materially and ideologically supported from a base in America. There was a lack of vigor and clarity. The OAS is passing into an ever-accelerating cycle, as was rightly remarked on by the Argentine foreign minister. This justifies a recent harsh warning which Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn gave the West at Harvard University in the United States. After accusing Western society of being effeminate and licentiously tolerant, he remarked: "It is time for the West to defend not only human rights but also human obligations."

Article 18 of our constitution of 1853 contains the best formula for human rights. Among other guarantees for justice, the article says that "any kind of torture" is abolished forever and that "the prisons of the nation shall be healthy and clean, for the security and not for the punishment of prisoners detained in them, and any measure taken on the pretext of precaution which leads to more suffering for them beyond that which is required for their safe confinement will be held against the judge who authorized it."

The only legitimate judge of Argentine constitutional rules is the nation's Supreme Court of Justice. It is therefore deplorable that the Argentine foreign minister has given way to the temptation to invite the Inter-American Human Rights Commission [IHRC] to verify compliance with the rules of our constitution. The invitation is deplorable not only for that reason but also because this weakness brought the country the insult that the commission put forth preliminary conditions for the visit.

HERALD NOTES AMAZON PACT'S BOOST TO BRAZIL

PY0916Z1Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 9 Jul 78 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "Exclusive Club"]

[Text] The Amazon Pact signed in Brasilia last week is a remarkable diplomatic triumph for Brazil's foreign minister, Antonio Azeredo da Silveira. Rarely can the idea of a pact have been translated into reality with such rapidity. Whatever misgivings Brazil's partners might have had, the elasticity of the pact's sponsors was equal to the task of overcoming them. In a region in which discussions over such matters are ponderous and tend to consume many years, such speed deserves nothing but praise.

The pact itself is another matter, however. It is clearly much more than a mechanism to help solve questions that may arise among nations sharing one big river. Agreements on international cooperation over such things as health, communications, transport, and the defence of the environment are always welcome. But little of this is beyond the capacity of diplomatic services to handle, and for more intimate cooperation, there are the large numbers of regional, sub-regional, and inter-regional agreements that have piled up in Latin America over the years.

The most striking characteristic of the Amazon Pact is not what it sets out to do, or even who it includes: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam, and Venezuela. It is rather who it excludes--the countries of the southern cone: Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Brazil's relationship with three of the four cone countries is closer than normal. The only one of them with whom its relations can be described as being at best merely normal is Argentina.

It has long been suspected that Brazil is seeking to expand its power at our expense. Such an inclination is normal, even healthy. But to the degree that it is pursued it must be taken into account and whenever possible countered. Official speeches everywhere may deny that international relations, as far as the country in which the speech is being made at any rate, can possibly be affected by such crude things as a feeling of rivalry. Any government that takes such protestations seriously is guilty of the dereliction of duty. Fortunately, that is something our present government cannot seriously be accused of.

Thanks to its geographical position, Brazil will be able to use Amazonian development both as a stick and a carrot in its business with the countries bordering it from Surinam to Bolivia. The importance of being able to do this, and the drawbacks for us, are plainly demonstrated in the case of Paraguay, which is deeply involved with Brazil over Itaipu and therefore in no position to back Argentina's Corpus project as energetically as mutual self-interest should dictate. Should projects involving Argentina and countries in the Amazon Pact collide in the future with Brazilian ones, the Brazilians will, thanks to the pact, have a few more strings to pull and their chances of getting what they want will be that much greater.

PERONISTS APPEAL FOR FREEDOM OF MRS PERON

PY071512Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1246 GMT 7 Jul 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul--It was reported here today that the leaders of the Justicialist Party have petitioned the president of the Argentine military government, Lt Gen Jorge Videla, to grant freedom to former President Isabel Peron.

The petition was signed by 18 top Justicialist leaders, although they did so as independent citizens because the activity of political parties has been suspended.

The petitioners make it very clear that they have no wish to discuss the jurdical and legal basis of their petition because they believe that for the attainment of the much-discussed political peace, no citizens who represent large sectors of the citizenry can or should be deprived of their freedom.

The petitioners add that on the eve of a new stage of the process, whose final objective is national institutional normality, the freedom of citizen Maria Estela Martinez de Peron and other political and union prisoners held without trial would be the best proof of good will.

In the petition sent to President Videla, Isabel Peron's supporters indicate: "We expect and hope for a fair solution from you."

PEREDA ASBUN WIDENS LEAD OVER SILES ZUAZO

PY110102Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jul 78 PY

[Text] The latest figures provided by the Electoral Court on progress of the vote count follow:

People's Nationalist Union, Juan Pereda Asbun	283,824
Democratic and Popular Unity Front, Hernan Siles Zuazo	103,527
Christian Democratic Party, Rene Bernal Escalante	98,930
Democratic Alliance of National Revolution, Victor Paz Estenssoro	82,324
National Revolutionary Movement of the People, Juan Pereda Asbun	8,179
Socialist Party, Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz	2,977
Revolutionary Front of the Left, Casiano Amurrio Rocha	9,073
Tupac Katari Indian Movement, Luciano Tapia Quisbert	786
Blank	1,338
Null	5,572

FINAL ELECTION RESULTS DUE ON 31 JULY

PY101453Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Jul 78 PY

[Excerpt] The National Electoral Court has announced that it is unable to announce partial results of local and national voting and will proceed to count the votes without stopping until all votes are counted. Nevertheless, the court announced that the total count, percentages, etc, will be released on 31 July, when the name of the future constitutional president will be known.

SILES ZUAZO CLAIMS ELECTION VICTORY

PY102211Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2150 10 Jul 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 10 July--Leftist candidate and former Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo proclaimed himself the winner in the general elections held yesterday. He announced at the same time that his political group, the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP], has begun contacts with other forces of the opposition in order to reach a parliamentary agreement to insure his victory in the elections. During a press conference, Siles said that votes counted so far clearly show an FUDP victory, an opinion which was also supported by Radio Fides of La Paz, which claimed that the former president has already obtained 40 percent of the parliamentary seats, against only 34 percent for Pereda, whose candidacy has the sympathy of the armed forces.

Pereda Responds

PY102315Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 2250 GMT 10 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Juan Pereda Asbun, candidate for the People's Nationalist Union, called a press conference at approximately 1810 on the third floor of the Alborada Building, located at (Juan de Larriba) and (Loaiza) streets.

During this press conference, attended by international and national journalists, Juan Pereda charged that Siles Zuazo's candidacy was financed by international extremism. He said that with these funds Siles Zuazo bribed voters and electoral officers and carried out several deeds not in line with electoral ethics.

Pereda said that at this point Siles Zuazo is using extremist tactics, that is, confusion, taking advantage of the partial information provided by the departmental electoral court and the National Electoral Court.

Pereda said that Hernan Siles Zuazo is calling for subversion by charging electoral fraud and at the same time saying that he is the winner of the election. In addition, Hernan Siles Zuazo is the true instrument of international extremism, whose aim is to institutionalize violence in Bolivia.

Juan Pereda Asbun made this statement to approximately 100 journalists from both Bolivian and international news media. Here is part of that press conference:

[Begin Pereda recording]... terrorist elements which have already brought chaos and anarchy to the country. At the same time I wish to charge that Dr Siles Zuazo's candidacy had access to enormous resources and funds which come from abroad. From the information which representatives of my party throughout the country have provided me it has been possible to establish that votes have been purchased, that electoral officials have been bribed and that the amount of money which has circulated has been truly outrageous. [end recording]

Candidate Juan Pereda Asbun also took advantage of the press conference to convey the following message to the Bolivian people: My congratulations to the Bolivian people, who, aware of their responsibility and patriotism at this decisive moment for the fatherland's future, have expressed their desire to give victory to nationalism, which is the only viable course for attaining peace and progress for our people. Once again, I wish to thank the noble and brave people of Bolivia for giving me their overwhelming support.

BRIEFS

SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT--The Bolivian and Mexican social security institutes have signed an agreement jointly to fight insecurity, disease, unemployment, ignorance, instability in employment, lack of jobs and other economic problems. They will also exchange specialists, technicians, experts and researchers, teaching material and other items related to social security. The first provision of the agreement will consist of 20 scholarships for Bolivian medical doctors to receive specialized training at the Mexican social security institute. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jul 78 PY]

AUTOMOTIVE INVESTMENT--The automotive plan to be carried out by the firms Mercedes-Benz and Renault will require an investment on the order of $220 million in the next 4 years. [Excerpt] [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jul 78 PY]

NEW INTEGRATION SECRETARY--President Hugo Banzer Suarez today will swear in (Guillermo Samorano Pereira) as secretary general for integration, replacing Willy Vargas. (Samorano Pereira) recently held the post of deputy representative to the Latin American Free Trade Association. [La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Jul 78 PY]

BRAZIL TO ATTEND BELGRADE NONALINED CONFERENCE

LD102116Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1915 GMT 10 Jul 78 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Brasilia, July 10 (TANJUG)--Brazil will attend the ministerial conference of the nonaligned countries in Belgrade as an observer, it was announced here in the Foreign Ministry. The ministry spokesman said that the Brazilian delegation will be headed by Brazil's ambassador to Yugoslavia.

This biggest Latin American country, as it was emphasized on several occasions, follows with great attention the development and problems of nonalignment, and together with other developing countries supports all efforts and actions of the nonaligned for a new international economic order and for juster relations in the world.

In recent [word indistinct] Brazil's foreign policy has aspired to drawing closer to developing countries of [word indistinct] and Asia, supported the struggle against colonialism and racism, condemned Zionism and supported Arab countries in the Mid-Eastern conflict.

PETROBRAS TO SEARCH FOR OIL IN IRAQ, OTHER AREAS

PY102352Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Jul 78 p 20 PY

[Text] When PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] begins to exploit the (Majnun) oilfield in Iraq, where a giant deposit of 2 billion barrels with an initial production of 350,000 bls per day has been found, Brazil will save $108.8 million in oil imports per year. This information was given by PETROBRAS President Araken de Oliveira during a lecture at the association of graduates of the Superior War College, adding that the contract with Iraq permits Brazil to purchase 20 percent of that field's production at a price $4 less than the international price.

This was the first time the PETROBRAS president had mentioned the existence of such a clause in the contract between BRASPETRO, the PETROBRAS subsidiary, and the Iraqi state company (INOC). He declared that BRASPETRO activities abroad are really worthwhile because they are a sort of "energy insurance" for the country. Without going into all the details of the Iraqi contract, Oliveira revealed that the price of oil would be different if the production at (Majnun) should be above 350,000 bls per day.

Oliveira defended the idea that oil supply must be given priority above any other alternative to meet energy needs, since the country's economic development is crucially dependent on energy. He argued that the idea of Brazil's becoming oil independent was behind PETROBRAS moves to sign oil exploration contracts with countries having great oil production potential. Oliveira emphasized, however, that "those contracts do not mean that PETROBRAS is not making heavy investments in our territory, both on land and on the continental shelf."

Oliveira then added that PETROBRAS has decided to search for oil abroad for three reasons: 1) to become familiar with the mechanisms of risk contracts; 2) to compete with the large internationa oil companies which were interested in prospecting and exploiting the same areas; and 3) for imperative reasons of insuring our supply, by establishing closer associations of interdependence with the countries where we are operating so that Brazil would not suffer discontinuity in oil supply.

Under this form of risk contracts, PETROBRAS is operating in Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Egypt and Colombia.

Oliveira said that Brazil's economic growth demands an increasing availability of energy, because the energy consumption curve is always steeper than the GNP curve. As an example, he said that if the country should ration its oil consumption by 20 percent, the resulting unemployment would affect 350,000 persons immediately and at least 1 million Brazilians overall. Therefore, Oliveira said that less consumption must be the result of moderation, of complying with the rationalization measures now in effect, while we make more investments in prospecting for and diversifying energy sources.

FIGUEIREDO FAVORS GRADUAL ANTI-INFLATION POLICY

PY101844Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Jul 78 p 3 PY

[Text] Presidential candidate of the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo yesterday gave his support for a gradual policy of fighting inflation. In a press interview, he said that the anti-inflationary measures "are tough already, imposing sacrifices on the people," and that if the government should adopt "a shock treatment, the effects would be much worse." The presidential candidate also defended direct negotiations between employers and employees, but observed that the government should act as an "umpire" to prevent those negotiations from creating troubles such as a raise in the cost of living and unemployment. General Figueiredo, who today visited four publishing enterprises in Rio de Janeiro, will return to Brasilia on a scheduled flight this morning. Tomorrow General Figueiredo will have a barbeque with ARENA leaders of Minas Gerais.

NAZI FUGITIVE WAGNER PLACED IN MENTAL HOSPITAL

PY080311Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 8 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Nazi war criminal Gustav Franz Wagner has been confined in a psychiatric hospital in Tabatinga for 2 weeks for poor mental health. His nurses have reported that Wagner attacks and tosses objects at them or at anyone who enters his cell.

The Federal Superintendency had to disclose this fact today in view of rumors that Wagner had died. The director of the hospital told newsmen that no one can see Wagner, not even with President Geisel's authorization.

REPORT OF MATO GROSSO MASSACRE DENIED

PY110055Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 9 Jul 78 p 1 PY

[Text] The massacre of 42 persons in the hills of Petrovina, Alto Maraguaia, revealed on Saturday by the secretary for public security of northern Mato Grosso, Col Aloisio Madeira Evora, never occurred. The student who was accused [of leading the massacre] attacked a ranch and exchanged shots with workers, some of whom were wounded while others were frightened away.

Colonel Madeira Evora's announcement was based on a 36-page report and on information provided by a police magistrate, whose responsibility [for the information] will have to be investigated. The police of Alto Araguaia reported that the only bodies ever found there belonged to three persons unknown who were killed last year.

LIBERAL LEADER FAVORS RAPPROCHEMENT WITH LEFTWING

PA101648Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Former Liberal precandidate Hernando Agudelo Villa recommends that the Liberal Party seek a rapprochement with some of the leftwing groups in Colombia. The proposal is included in his publication ENCUENTRO LIBERAL, scheduled to go into circulation on Monday.

In his article, the former finance minister points out that it is possible for some leftwing sectors to help in the task of promoting the economic and social process which a progressive organization such as the Liberal Party should undertake.

The article concludes that there is no doubt that Liberals should take the leadership for the great national reforms with courage and determination. It will recover the valuable support of the forces of the leftwing.

M-19 CALLS FOR UNITY OF GUERRILLA GROUPS

PA101628Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--In its latest clandestine publication, the M-19 raises the need for prompt unity of the Colombian guerrilla groups through specific formulas. The movement, which 3 years ago kidnaped and killed labor leader Jose Raquel Mercado, published a message to that effect addressed to the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] and the pro-Castro National Liberation Army [ELN].

The message underlines the fact that in the present situation, the need for action and the violence of our enemies are contributing to our unity not merely as an aspiration but as a practical necessity to continue our struggle.

Other reasons mentioned in the message include the development of a strategy for national liberation, military action as an expression of the struggle of the masses, respect for the Communist Trade Union Confederation of Workers of Colombia, support for the National Labor Council and the defense of the Cuban Revolution.

The M-19 also proposes a joint meeting of the three groups to discuss a coordinated plan of action and other strategic tactics. It points out that if its proposal meets any objections, it is willing to meet anywhere and any time the other groups may decide to discuss any position or strategy as long as the unity does not imply absorption or hegemony in any form.

In the first reaction to this proposal, the FARC replied that the policy of unified guerrilla action is interpreted differently by some groups. It added, however, that all our armed movements agree on the urgent need for such a unity. The FARC explained that it agrees with the ELN on basic issues such as unity of action, which is most satisfactory and generates new forces with which to continue their struggle.

In the exchange of messages, no mention was made of the other Colombian guerrilla organization, the pro-Chinese Popular Liberation Army [EPL]. The FARC and the EPL have recently increased their armed action in various sectors of the country, including the occupation of a town and the execution of two farmowners and a political leader, all branded as informers and enemies of the people.

EL COMERCIO SCORES U.S. PROTECTIONIST POLICY

PA092145Y Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Jul 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "The Protectionism of Developed Countries"]

[Text] The socioeconomic committee of the OAS assembly has approved certain proposed resolutions reiterating the member states' concern over the growing protectionist trends in large developed countries, trends which have a negative effect on the exports of countries whose development is still at the takeoff point and which therefore are definitely harmed. The great economic powers are protecting themselves by causing incalculable damage to the poorer countries: This is a manifest reality and one that should very understandably cause special concern within the OAS.

The resolutions were approved over the opposition of the U.S. representatives, a fact which in itself demonstrates that there is little or no willingness to pay attention to the demands of the Latin American nations. No one doubts that the United States has the right to defend its own economic interests; however, in no way should this be taken to the extreme of sacrificing other OAS members' hopes of development. U.S. protectionism directly and seriously affects the exports of the developing countries, so much so that plans which are being studied for possible implementation are fatally hindered, thereby largely defeating the hopes of our people.

The foreign trade law is being implemented within this exaggerated protectionist plan which includes discriminatory measures against Ecuador and Venezuela. The OAS has protested this and has repeatedly asked for the elimination of those antagonistic measures. But its protests have been ineffectual despite some promises made by former President Ford and President Carter. What more effective and persuasive means does the OAS need? Based on what one can see, it is a sort of inoperative organization in which it is impossible to have full trust. Maybe this could be the reason that a reform of its structure is considered necessary? The idea is not new. It was expressed some years ago and still nothing positive or effective has been done.

During the recent meeting, restructuring of the OAS was discussed in an academic fashion. Once again it has been said that the inter-American system should take into account the new political, economic, social and cultural conditions and the system's impact on relations among member nations. But there seems to be the impression that also on this occasion nothing new or effective will be accomplished, nothing to give the organization moral and legal strength. If President Carter is so concerned about human rights throughout the world he should think about the right of Latin American countries which need to accelerate their development.

For this Latin America is asking for good treatment for the products or raw materials which it exports and not so high prices on the articles it needs to buy. Protectionism, as carried out by the United States currently, in no way could be the foundation of a good neighbor policy, as was once proclaimed in the past. This protectionism is a cause of concern because when put into practice it means aggression.

EL COMERCIO COMMENTS FAVORABLY ON AMAZON PACT

PA110307Y Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 Jul 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "The Amazon Pact"]

[Excerpts] Eight Amazon countries--logically, Ecuador among them--have signed in Brasilia the Amazon cooperation treaty, which establishes rules of action for the signatory states to promote the harmonious development of the area and its respective territories. The contracting parties will grant each other the broadest freedom for commercial navigation along the Amazon River and along the other international rivers in the Amazon. By the way, the exclusive use of the natural resources found in the respective territories has always been and continues to be a right inherent in state sovereignty. Aside from the economic objectives the treaty also considers those concerned with scientific research.

It is worth noting that the Brazilian foreign minister has made this emphatic and precise statement: "The Amazon cooperation treaty is far from becoming in the future a political instrument of expansion or hegemonic pretensions." What is expected is that the treaty will serve to strengthen the mechanisms of cooperation among the eight nations that have common interests in the area. True, the initiative for this document came from the Brazilian Government, but once certain doubts and fears were overcome all of the area's governments accepted the idea, agreed on the terms to be employed and signed the treaty conscientiously and responsibly. At bottom this was just another case of acknowledging the need for further integrationist policies that counter unacceptable hegemonic purposes.

Logically, the first step has been the signing of a document, but it is its implementation which we must now await.

There is no reason for us to believe in exaggerated claims or visions. We cannot see in the treaty which has just been signed by the representatives of the eight Amazon countries a kind of universal panacea, or something extracrdinarily fabulous. Something definite is being pursued which in time may assume the best dimensions possible--cooperation among people who need intense progress and firmly paced development. The guarantee of freedom of commercial navigation along the Amazon River would already indicate the existence of cooperation. Little by little new steps would be taken, and with the acquired experience new initiatives with similar purposes would arise. In the initial phases the essential thing is to protect the good faith without which cooperation is not conceivable.

The governments themselves must make sure that the treaty is not left hanging in midair but that, on the contrary, it is firmly and harmoniously fulfilled. While the area's economic development is sought, we should hope that this progress constitutes the basis for future understandings of all kinds, be they political, social and cultural. Maybe the dream about a new civilization will cease to be a dream.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS PURCHASE OF ANDEAN PACT SHARES

PA052113Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Ecuador will buy Chile's former shares in the Andean Pact. The Supreme Council of Government decree authorizing the negotiation establishes that the shares to be negotiated amount to $6 million. Chile withdrew from the Andean Pact in 1976, alleging that the pact's economic measures hindered its development.

REPORTAGE ON DOMINGO LAINO DETENTION

Laino To Be Charged

PY102212Y Asunci .. ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Jul 78 p 6 PY

[Excerpt] The interior minister reported this morning that a court will hear the case of Domingo Laino, who will have to answer charges of links with the extreme leftwing.

Commenting on Laino's detention, Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro said: "This is a strictly investigative procedure conducted by the government to determine Laino's involvement in activities linking him with the extreme leftwing. This is the purpose of his detention."

[Question] And how long will the questioning at the investigations department last?

[Answer] It depends. I am not a judge. After questioning Laino, a judge will decide whether to order his release.

[Question] Does that mean that his case will be heard in a court?

[Answer] Of course.

[Question] What can you tell us about the detention of Francisco de Vargas?

[Answer] He is there only because he is close to Laino.

In reply to newsmen, Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues reported today that the Foreign Ministry had received a note from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission [IHRC], which merely denounced Laino's detention.

"The note," Nogues said, "merely transmitted a denunciation received by the IHRC on Laino's detention."

Nogues also made clear that the IHRC "in no way asked for Laino's release. It merely communicated 'the denunciation,' between quotes."

Old Charge Against Laino

PY102342Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Jul 78 p 12 PY

[Excerpts] A pending case against Dr Domingo Laino for allegedly violating Law No 209 on defense of public peace and individual freedom may be reactivated.

Questioned about the case by this newspaper, Dr Ezequiel Gonzalez Alsina, vice president of the Senate and leader of the Colorado Senate bloc, said he did not have any opinion on Laino's detention. He said, however, that Laino faces a pending trial. "What kind of reporters are you as not to be aware of this?" he asked and added: "He was free only because of his congressional immunity, and what happens when he loses this immunity?... I am giving you a journalistic test."

He declared: "The statute of limitations begins at the moment he loses his congressional immunity."

In 1976 Dr Laino and other opposition politicians were charged with violating Law No 209 by participating in preliminary meetings to create a common opposition front, including Colorados in exile.

Dr Miguel Abdon Saguier, one of Laino's lawyers in that case, said the case against Laino was suspended after he was questioned. "If the judge had found some indication of guilt at the hearing he had the power to ask that Laino's immunity (as a deputy) be lifted, but he did not. He never asked for Laino to be stripped of his immunity so he could be detained."

He added: "Until Friday, 7 July, the day of the kidnaping, there was no order for detention on record. If an order for detention does appear one of these days, there would be room to suppose that it had been backdated--that is, they might issue an order today bearing a date prior to the kidnaping, in an attempt to justify the procedure."

Doctor Saguier added that Laino's term as deputy ended on 31 March 1978. "If it is true that he was detained because of this pending case, why didn't they detain him before? Why did they wait for so many months?" he asked.

He continued: "In addition, the case was full of irregularities. Charges were made based on declarations given at the investigations department under illegal pressure. I must also point out, in connection with the national front referred to by Dr Gonzalez Alsina, that there is no crime in reaching a democratic agreement among the opposition. No procedures or pressures can thwart the great national agreement being reached by the opposition parties, including some Colorado Party members who do not agree with the current government."

Companion Released

PY102112Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Jul 78 p 6 PY

[Text] Francisco Jose de Vargas, who was detained with Domingo Laino last Friday, was released at around 1240 today.

Vargas told ULTIMA HORA that from the time of his arrest he was separated from Laino, who was taken to the investigations department while he was taken to the surveillance and crime department. He said: "I did not see Laino until just before I was released." "I was taken for a shave and I saw him in the investigations department's officers mess hall, where we embraced. He did not show any signs of physical punishment."

Vargas said that he was treated correctly at all times, that he did not receive bad treatment. He said: "I am perfectly all right."

He also said that he was not interrogated and that no formal accusation was made against him, but that he voluntarily gave a declaration about his links with Laino and the reason why they were together at the time of the arrest. He explained that they were going to the house of Laino's father when they were detained by civilians. One of them identified himself as a police officer and that from that point they were separated and taken to the investigations department, where he was then taken to the surveillance and crime department.

He said that he did not know why Laino was arrested.

Release Demanded

FY102248Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Jul 78 p 10 FY

[Text] The Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], the Febrerist Revolutionary Party [PRF] and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] issued a joint communique last night regarding the detention of Domingo Laino. They demand Laino's release. Furthermore, Rafaela Guanes de Laino stated yesterday that investigations authorities again refused to allow her to see her husband, nor did they deliver to her the clothes her husband was wearing when he was detained.

The communique states that "the brutal 7 July attack on Domingo Laino, first vice president of the PLRA, his loss of liberty and the denial issued by the authorities in the hours immediately following regarding involvement in the incident, are genuine acts of terrorism which reveal once again the antidemocratic and inhuman nature of the present regime."

The communique adds "that this new and flagrant violation of human rights, typically Stalinist, is an insolent answer by the Paraguayan Government to the appeal for respect of these rights made by the OAS at its recent General Assembly, during which the Paraguayan Government's delegates maintained that Paraguay is governed under a democratic system and that it respects human rights. This action is thus a mockery of the entire continent and ridicules the Paraguayan people."

It adds that "the attitude of the government reveals its persistent decision to continue its activities outside constitutional and legal norms, disregarding international commitments which it has solemnly assumed."

The communique states that "the Paraguayan people, irrespective of political affiliation, must be fully aware of the serious situation which our fatherland is experiencing." The joint communique holds "the government responsible for the attack on Domingo Laino, for his life and physical integrity, which are dangerously threatened, and demands his immediate release." The communique is signed by Juan Manuel Britez and Miguel Angel Martinez Yaryes (PIRA), Anibal Recalde Sosa (PDC) and Humberto Perez Caceres (PRF).

BRIEFS

FRENCH TOBACCO PURCHASE--Local exporters have indicated to the Agriculture and Livestock ministry that France will purchase the 1978-79 tobacco harvest in its entirety. There has been a production forecast of 20,000 tons for this harvest, of which 4,000 tons will be used by the internal market. A total of 22,348 tons of tobacco, worth $13.658 million, was exported in 1977. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Jul 78 p 21 FY]

ARGENTINE-PARAGUAYAN TRADE--Asuncion, 7 Jul--The Paraguayan-Argentine joint economic cooperation and complementation commission will meet in Buenos Aires in August instead of in July, by request of the Argentine Government. At present, Argentina absorbs more than 20 percent of the all Paraguayan exports, and it is one of the traditional markets for Paraguay. It is expected that greater Argentine economic stability will favor trade with Paraguay. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2339 GMT 7 Jul 78 FY]

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON AMAZON PACT

PA101706Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1451 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 10 Jul (LATIN)--Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente stated here that the Amazon Pact recently signed by eight nations of the area "in no way favors Brazil in particular," reaffirming that the approved text "is on cooperation for the defense of the ecology."

Speaking on a telvised political program, De la Puente added that the pact "does not harm the national interest" and that, on the contrary, "it opens the possibility for Peru to sign bilateral agreements in which Peru would sovereignly decide its pariticipation."

According to the foreign minister, the treaty signed last week in Brasilia "contains articles that give complete assurances against eventual Brazilian hegemony." This guarantee, he explained, "is that all decisions must be approved unanimously and the circumstance that there are reservations among the parties." [sentence as received]

De la Puente insisted on the fact that the treaty propounds the harmonious development of the Amazon to avoid imbalances in the region, but that in its operation "bilateral agreements must be sought."

Peru's signing of the pact has elicited the criticism of independent political magazines. After refuting them, the foreign minister said that "it would be a serious mistake to work with a mentality that propounds the evasion of Peru's participation in this type of international agreement."

According to some press organs, Brazil is seeking hegemony in South America.

The Amazon Pact, which was signed in Brasilia on Monday, 3 July, was signed by the foreign ministers of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES ARMS DEBT

PA101627Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0303 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 9 Jul (AFP)--Peruvian Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente hinted here today that the nation's debt for arms purchases amounts to over $1.6 billion. Although he did not specifically mention that figure, he did state that this obligation constitutes slightly more than 20 percent of the overall foreign debt.

Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva announced on 14 June that Peru's total foreign debt last year abounted to $8.273 billion.

The foreign minister made his comment in a televised interview last night when asked about his recent trip to the USSR. He also said that Peru and the other nations of Latin America are interested in avoiding arms expenses and that the foreign ministers of the region signed a declaration on the subject a few days ago in Washington. He added that with the purchases already made, Peru's security is assured for some years and, in addition, it has no belligerent intentions.

EXILED CANDIDATES TO RETURN, ATTEND CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

PY081502Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Ulises Montoya Manfredi, president of the National Election Tribunal, said yesterday that the tribunal will call in the elected candidates even if they are in exile. He noted that the desire of the government is to respect the will of the people. As has been announced on different opportunities, [words indistinct] to issue the credentials which will be available to the candidates in the country and outside the country.

Regarding the return of candidates now in exile, the president of the republic has reiterated that the government will respect the election. Therefore, credentials will be issued to allow them to attend the Constituent Assembly, said Montoya Manfredi.

Regarding the candidates of the left, who did not participate in the elections, it must be pointed out that they left the elections of their own accord and are therefore no longer candidates, Montoya Manfredi added.

PAP REJECTS POLITICAL ALLIANCES IN ASSEMBLY

PA110312Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0109 GMT 11 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 10 Jul (EFE)--The Aprista Party of Peru (PAP) will not make political alliances with other groups at the Constituent Assembly, Luis Alberto Sanchez, chief of that party's political commission, affirms today in statements published by the newspaper EXPRESO.

There will be no agreements with the rightwing Popular Christian Party (PCC) or with any other group so long as the official results of the 18 June constituent elections are not known, Sanchez indicated.

The center-right PAP is the unofficial winner of the elections; the PPC is running in second place, followed by the leftwing Peasant, Student and Workers Popular Front.

Even so, Sanchez explained, alliances will not be necessary in the Constituent Assembly, which will be installed on 28 July, because it is not a legislative assembly.

He indicated that his political group will propose voting rights for illiterates in the new Peruvian Constitution, which is to be drafted by the Constituent Assembly. It also will oppose the abolition of private property.

According to the politician, the percentage of Popular Action (AP) votes which went to PAP remains a mystery. AP, which was founded by former President Fernando Belaunde, who was overthrown in 1968 by the military, did not participate in the elections. According to Sanchez, AP was wrong in abstaining.

MINISTER WARNS AGAINST IDEOLOGICAL PENETRATION

PY051611Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Jul 78 PY

[Excerpt] The minister of aeronautics, Gen Jorge Tamyo de la Flor, has called for national awareness and nationalism in order to reject alien ideologies which are seeking to undermine the guardian institutions of the nation. Gen Jorge Tamayo de la Flor stated: "In these times of change, we must think not only about our geographical borders, which are the main concern of the armed forces, but also about our ideological borders."

PRESIDENT TO TRAVEL TO SURINAM THIS MONTH

PA082042Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 Jul 78 PA

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has met with Guyanese Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson. The meeting took place at the Presidential Palace of La Casona and lasted 2 hours. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi was also present.

After the meeting, Consalvi said that the Guyanese foreign minister is in Caracas at the invitation of President Perez. He described the visit as private. He was on his way through Venezuela on a return trip from Brazil. Consalvi added that President Perez will travel to Surinam on 24 July.

AUTHORITIES RECAPTURE ESCAPED GUERRILLAS

PA051509Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpts] Members of a security institution of the state have captured two former guerrillas who had escaped from the San Carlos barracks and from La Pica Prison. The two men were captured during a raid on a building in the Pro-Patria neighborhood. A great deal of subversive materiel was found during the raid.

The arrested men are Jose Ali del Carmen Torres, better known as Pancho, and Carlos (Mernardo Araque Carico), alias Emerson.

In addition to the subversive propaganda the authorities found canned food, arms and ammunition in the apartment. Jose Ali del Carmen Torres is one of the kidnapers of Carlos Dominguez Chavez. (Araque Carico) is accused of having shot to death an agent of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services.

INTERIOR MINISTER REFERS TO ARREST OF SUBVERSIVES

PA081646Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpts] The arrest of Puerta Ponce and his group of activisits as well as the seizure of a clandestine printing press have been a harsh blow to the remnants of armed subversives which are still operating in the country. The arrest was made by the DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] in Maracay.

The statement was made by Interior Minister Octavio Lepage when questioned by newsmen upon his arrival at the airport in Barquisimeto, where is on an administrative tour.

Minister Lepage confirmed that (Eder) Puerta Ponce was arrested in Maracay together with five persons at the house where a well-equipped printing center operated. Bulletins, posters, leaflets and even stickers praising the armed struggle and urging abstention in the coming elections were printed there.

(Eder) Puerta Ponce is a brother of Gabriel Puerta Ponce, the leader of one of the three factions into which the Red Flag group has divided. He holds a very high position in the armed clandestine movement.

Lepage noted that the government has enough resources to guarantee absolute normality during the electoral campaign and the turnout of electors at the polls on 3 December.

POLISH COMMERCIAL DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PA110423Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Jul 78 PA

[Text] A Polish commercial delegation arrived yesterday in Mexico City to meet with representatives of Mexico's official and private sectors. Polish Ambassador Jozef Klasa and several officials of the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute welcomed the delegation at Mexico City's international airport.

The Polish delegation, headed by Mr (Ed Karavala), will study various potential Mexican markets as well as the national products that can be bought by his country.

BANK ISSUES FIGURES ON GOVERNMENT INCOME, SPENDING

PA101857Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2126 GMT 9 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Jul (EFE)--The National Bank of Mexico revealed here today that Mexico's deficit for the first quarter of 1978 totalled 28.752 billion pesos (some $1.29 billion).

This figure represents an 83.6-percent increase over the same period in 1977, when the deficit was 15 billion pesos (some $675 million).

An analysis prepared by the National Bank of Mexico (a private bank) reports a 37.9-percent increase in net government expenditures over the January-March period of last year.

According to the study, the federal government used some of this money for payments of interest and amortization of the foreign debt, which were 26.3-percent higher than such payments in the first quarter of 1977.

At the same time, the net expenditures of the parastate sector, whose budget is controlled by the government, increased by 92.614 billion pesos ($4.026 billion), a 33.1-percent increase over last year.

The document states that income for the public and parastate sectors increased by 31.3-percent over the first 4 months of 1977, totalling 137.236 billion pesos ($5.966 billion) in real terms. This revenue came primarily from income taxes, production, commerce and oil exports.

The bank also stated that the Federal Revenue Law provides for revenues this year of 621.141 billion pesos ($27 billion), with a deficit of over 133.146 billion pesos ($5.78 billion).

FOREIGN, NATIONAL DEBTS DO NOT EXCEED LEGAL LIMITS

PA061724Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Jul 78 PA

[Station editorial]

[Text] Mexico's world credit is firm. Banking institutions of the United States and Europe have agreed that the world debt of the Mexican Republic is not a threat to our economy. World banking institutions will honor the credit request of the Federal Electricity Commission for new installations. Mexico's foreign image is encouraging.

This has been achieved through the efforts and sacrifice of our nation in a relatively short period of time.

To offer confidence is tantamount to generating faith in the work and the production of people like the people of Mexico who have confronted a dangerous and acute crisis.

Mexico's foreign and domestic debt, of course, is very high--847 billion pesos--but it is under control and is within the limits fixed by Congress, according to Secretary of Finance David Ibarra Munoz.

These statements, of course, contribute to greater confidence in the Mexican people. A new hue of international respect paves the way to plans--still in their initial stages--of acknowledging the importance of the institutions and the fact that, according to the Constitution, Mexico's legislative branch is the authority that regulates great financial decisions. No budget, it should be recalled, is legally valid without the approval of the representatives of the people.

When the secretary of finance said that the debt does not exceed the limits approved by Congress, he demonstrated deep respect for institutional order, something we sometimes forget and lose.

Mexico should continue to sacrifice until it has put its finances in order. What has been achieved so far is worthy of praise, but is not satisfactory. So gigantic and heavy a load should not allow us to continue merrily to add to our debts. It is an excellent thing that they do not exceed legal limits, but they should be cut back as soon as possible.

POLICE DISCOVER GUERRILLA TRAINING CAMP

PA080229Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0107 GMT 8 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Jul (AF)--A policeman and a guerrilla died today in a clash when the police discovered a training camp in Morelos State. Ten guerrillas escaped and two were captured during the clash. Their identities have not been revealed yet.

State police helicopters, patrols and infantry detachments began to scour the region in search of the escaped guerrillas. It was said that the [word indistinct] used heavy weapons during the clash. The training camp was discovered accidentally by a police patrol made up of some 10 men.

STUDENTS, POLICE CLASH IN TOLUCA

PA092001Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1619 GMT 9 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Toluca, Mexico, 9 Jul (AFP)--Enraged students burned a bus here last night and hijacked 18 others to protest against increased bus fares. The disorders occurred in this city when police tried to recover a bus that students had taken over. The police have reported that there were no casualties.

BRIEFS

PROVEN PETROLEUM RESERVES--Mexico City, 3 Jul (AFP)--A Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) official reported today that Mexico's proven petroleum reserves will increase to 30 billion barrels in 4 years. Those reserves, which in December 1977 amounted to 16 billion barrels, currently amount to 20 billion barrels. In 4 years, Mexico's refining capacity will be 1,670,000 barrels a day, of which 200,000 barrels will be for export. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1555 GMT 3 Jul 78 PA]

OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS FOR NATIONWIDE GENERAL STRIKE

PA111247Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Arnulfo Arias Madrid, leader of the Panamenist Party, continued his tour of the country over the weekend, covering the rest of Panama Province and part of Cocle Province.

According to foreign correspondents and Panamenist Party spokesmen, the crowd that received Dr Arias and his colleagues in Penonome was similar to that which attended the rallies in Araijan and Chorrera on Friday.

The same sources reported that Arias asked Penonome's inhabitants and the country in general to declare a nationwide strike as soon as possible in order to overthrow Gen Omar Torrijos' government. According to a foreign news source, the general strike called by Arias must be staged as soon as possible so that the people will not suffer longer than necessary.

Arias' political tour also covered Cocle Province and will continue during the next weekend in Herrera and Los Santos Province, which will also be visited on Friday by Gen Omar Torrijos, Panamanian head of government, as part of his political tour.

CHILL IN PANAMA-VENEZUELA RELATIONS DETECTED

PA101935Y Panama City Radio MIA Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[From "Resumen Informativo" Program with Julito Ortega and Ramon Pereira P.]

[Text] We have detected a chill in relations between Panama and Venezuela. The chill appears to have originated with the visit of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to Panama when it appears some words were exchanged, some things were said during the meeting which created a certain coldness in relations between the Panamanian and Venezuelan governments.

In addition, 5 July, that nation's independence date--after there had been so much friendship--was almost ignored in official circles.

A reception was held at the Venezuelan Embassy which was attended by Panamanian Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla and other government officials and a representative of the National Guard general staff.

When he made the toast at the reception, the Venezuelan ambassador said--as our correspondent has informed us--that Venezuela had backed Panama's struggle for the recovery of the Canal Zone but that now it would be very pleased if Panama returned to effective and representative democracy. He said that Venezuela has had such a democracy for over 20 years, with full freedom and human rights and power given to the person who wins the elections.

In diplomatic circles this has been interpreted as a sign that the Venezuelan Government and its president would be very pleased if Panama entered into a democratic process which is more open, broader than the one at present. This seems to be the reason for the chill in relations between governments.

TORRIJOS REFUTES ACCUSATIONS OF COMMUNISM

PA102305Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1654 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[Speech by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos at Mair Square in city of Penonome--live]

[Excerpts] I am present here today in this square in the heart of a rebel province. I am present here because I wish to tell you personally that I am not the kind of ruler who flees and that I will remain at the head of this nation while you so desire it. [applause]

I am not going around spreading hatred. Hatred wilts everything. The Panamanian family gave the world a great example of unity, and after this, could we join in this insult, this disrespect to the dignity of man which has the same defects we have criticized so much? [applause]

I am one of the rulers who has mostly respected--and mostly demanded respect for--the dignity of his people, because I also demand respect for my own dignity. [applause]

Those who attended a demonstration a few days ago should not be condemned. They came here more out of archeological curiosity than anything else. [applause]

But it so happens that when an archeological piece escapes from the political museum of the fatherland, he comes out spreading insults. How wrong he is. You can plainly see that he does not know the shape, the new form that the process has given these people, and the form the people have given their leaders. This goes to show how far away they are from the true heart, from the true feelings of this new nation.

In the midst of all these things are happening--and all of them are positive, and they are positive because I now see you here in very militant attitude, because this nation is designed to respond in all emergencies--now you see that they are insulting my person, that they are insulting the National Guard and that they are going to continue to insult the National Guard for the only crime that the National Guard is no longer going to allow: to be converted into an element of repression. The reason they insult the National Guard is that 10 years ago it refused to continue to beat people, to be guardians not at polling places but at events where liquor and money were given out. It was not even good money; it was counterfeit money--this was too much disrespect--[shouts] and even stamped paper [paper stamped with the official seal of Panama, which must be used on all legal documents]. That is the truth.

The National Guard should know that it will continue to be attacked. But these attacks should be used to consolidate the National Guard so that it can make its units and equipment more compact and so that it will be more aware that those who try to help the downtrodden, all those who refuse to trample on a nation will always be insulted by those who want that period of trampling to return. I am very proud of you, boys. [applause]

There is something, my dear people of Cocle, that worries me a little. I have never explained what I am not. No man should explain what he is not, because he would spend all his life explaining what he is not and never demonstrating what he is. You do not have to explain the negative.

But I do not like that pastoral letter, the views of five respectable bishops before whom I bow my head with a respectful religious attitude, their attitude of insinuating that this nation is taking the course of communism. [shouts of "long live Omar Torrijos". applause] I do not like it because theirs is a highly esteemed opinion and because all we have been doing has been precisely so that the nation will not fall into or be involved in foreign schemes, in foreign-oriented [extranjerizante] or enslaving schemes.

I think there was some hastiness, on their part, but I do not wish that this be interpreted to mean that I am upset. No. I am confused, surprised, and slightly offended, because they are offending the name and the Gospel that was taught to me by my parents, parents of whom I am very proud.

I did not come here to promise you anything, because I do not wish to make preelectoral promises. I want you to know that I am not going to abandon you [applause], that in me you will have the same leader as always, that you can draw near me with the same old confidence as always, that no problem is too small for me. I do not put problems into a hierarchical ranking, because it is the person who has the problem that has to do such things. If it is a matter of a little bridge, a small problem that I am able to solve, I will solve it with much pleasure, because that is my duty, and daily contact with the soul, with the people and with the manifestations, the people of this nation, is where I fill my fuel tank in order to continue to struggle, to continue to patrol all the corners of our country. Thank you very much for your presence. [applause]

TORRIJOS INTERVIEWED ON POLITICS, HUMAN RIGHTS

PA101333Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0204 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[Interview with Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos by Colombian Newsman Jorge Entique Pulido granted in Panama City--recorded; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] You allowed some political leaders to return to Panama, among them, former President Arnulfo Arias, who is now on a political tour. Do you think that in final period of the revolution and the process you have led the political opposition has increased, or on the contrary, that the majority of the Panamanian people continue to support the process you are leading?

[Answer] Everyone, whether from the left or the right, good and bad politicians, was allowed to return, and now they have the country's 78,000 square kilometers in which to campaign. I am definitely convinced that the people are not going to let anyone persuade them with lies and promises about building roads and bridges. These promises were kept until the elections were over. I have remained in the background so that they can see themselves that this country has experienced political changes in 10 years that constitute a veritable geological era. For the world 5,000 years is a geological era; in politics 10 years of hand work constitute a geological era. I know that the system is immune, not to some men or leaders, but to lies, deceit and demagogery. Now that the system has been properly innoculated, whoever resorts to these means to conduct a campaign is going to find a people who do not respond to those old methods.

[Question] General, the mandate granted to you by the assembly of corregimientos expires in October. How is this mandate going to be retained?

[Answer] Exactly on 6 October [as heard] we are holding elections for 505 representatives, who together are the foundation of the popular power that was created as an experiment and has endured and survived, because of its accomplishments and its effectiveness, throughout these 6 years. In the history of Latin America this popular power has had the longest staying power. They elect a president or a chief of state, or whatever they wish to call the future head of government. However, we, the directors [directores] of the popular power, have reached the conclusion that in order to improve the popular power, certain changes are necessary, such as the next direct elections in 1984 and a separation between the executive and legislative branches.

[Question] General, pardon me for interrupting you. In the message you delivered to the people in Colon, you said that there would be direct elections in 1984. Does this mean that Panamanians are going to directly elect the president of the republic at the voting booth? Is this what you mean?

[Answer] Exactly. They will elect the president or chief of government and their representatives who will have legislative duties in corregimientos, municipalities, planning departments, provinces, and also legislative power at a national level. The first steps are going to be taken through this assembly and will be submitted to the next assembly which takes over in October.

VELASQUEZ ON PARTIES' REACTION TO TORRIJOS SPEECH

PA090406Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 8 Jul 78 PA

[Mario Velasquez commentary]

[Text] The statements made by Torrijos last week in Colon expand the government's original political plans. By comparing statements made 6 or 7 months ago by the chief of government with those made in Colon, we can see a significant change toward recognizing political parties, holding committee-level discussions between the government and the opposition and direct presidential election in 1984.

There probably are some opposition groups which feel that these changes are insignificant or too little. But the fact is that there is a move toward greater political participation. Liberal Party President David Samudio said Torrijos' statements are the beginning of the country's democratization and a positive step in that direction. The chief of government has been repeating on several occasions that he is willing to hold a dialog and to listen to opinions regarding the political situation. He has said that the process and changes are more important than the men who carry out those changes. In our opinion Torrijos has the best of dispositions to hold talks and find political solutions acceptable to the nation.

Meanwhile, opposition groups, mainly the Panamenist Party, Liberal Party, Republican Party and Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the four most important traditional parties in the country, have expressed widely varying opinions on Torrijos' statements.

So far, the Republican Party has been very cautious and has remained silent, perhaps waiting for more auspicious moments to give an opinion. This, in fact, has been part of the party's character and traditional behavior: never to make political comments that could involve them in a way which would diminish their capacity to maneuver. Nevertheless, it is obvious that the Republicans have little sympathy for the present legislative structure and that what they are most interested in is to have their party legalized so that it can start functioning as such.

It is also possible that the Republicans do not wish to make any commitments to the Panamenist Party. This might have been the reason they did not participate in welcoming Dr Arnulfo Arias or take part in any of the Panamenist leader's political tours.

The position assumed by the PDC is no surprise. Historically, the PDC has identified itself with the Panamenist Party, at least in the positions taken by this party during the 1964 and 1968 political campaigns and now with the return of Dr Arias to Panama. For the PDC a dialog with Torrijos' government is almost out of the question. In this it agrees with the Panamenists. I have the impression that for the Panamenist Party and PDC, the political solution is to abolish the present government and for Torrijos to leave.

On the other hand, the Liberal Party, under David Samudio's leadership, has taken a more realistic and practical view of the current political situation. Apparently no understanding has been reached between Dr Arnulfo Arias and David Samudio. One factor which has stood in the way of the unity of the opposition is the Liberal Party leaders' political scruples which prevent them from supporting the man who 10 years ago not only defeated them in one of the most violent and virulent electoral campigns in the history of Panama, but who throughout his political career has felt an aversion to and opposed the Liberal Party's interests. However, Samudio, keenly taking advantage of the opportunity, has responded to Torrijos and is willing to hold a dialog. He has, however, submitted a set of objectives which should be fulfilled during the dialog and are basically the same as those submitted by the other opposition groups. Obviously, the Liberal Party holds no grudges or desire for vengeance; it has assumed a practical, realistic and functional attitude.

During the weekend it was officially announced that official sectors had met to discuss the formation of a political party of the revolution.

For months we have expressed the need for the government to have a political party supported by the government forces. With this, there should be no doubt that the government is going to engage in politics and therefore reaffirm the political opening.

There is a possibility of this becoming the initial step in starting a dialog between the government and the opposition. For the time being, this dialog will be carried out with those political groups which have taken a more realistic attitude regarding the political situation. These groups are the Liberals and the Republicans.

I doubt that the Panamenists, Christian Democrats and Independent Lawyers would want to participate in any dialog which in any way implies a political agreement with Torrijos. Perhaps these groups, encouraged by Dr Arias' popularity and charisma, could be thinking that intensive agitation could bring about the conditions which could precipitate Torrijos' fall.

However, the state of mind of the Panamanian people and the nation's present conditions do not seem to be the most appropriate for such a situation. I feel that what is important at this moment is not only that political parties participate in matters of national importance, but for professional, technical, labor, business, peasant, teachers and students organizations contribute in finding a solution to the political problem. These sectors' participation in the dialog could reinforce the political opening and increase the Panamanian people's participation in discussing matters of such great importance and significance. Politics is so important that it should not be left entirely in the hands of politicians.

CATHOLIC CHURCH CALLS FOR DEMOCRACY, CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT

PA080228Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2202 GMT 7 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 7 Jul (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamanian church considers it an urgent necessity to change the socioeconomic structures of the country. At the same time it rejects class hate and labels "inadmissible" the fact that "Marxist cadres" set themselves up as political spokesmen of the government and the nation. In a pastoral letter signed by the bishops, which will be disseminated on Sunday, the Panamanian Catholic Church asks for a "true democracy" and criticizes "serious defects of the present political structure of the state" that help to create a lack of confidence with respect to human rights.

The bishops deplore the death of two youths in clashes between university student groups, as well as the arrest and mistreatment of a group of peasants one of whom subsequently died. The pastoral letter begins the analysis of the Panamanian situation with a discussion of a few points on the new Canal treaties, on which ratification notes were exchanged here on 16 June by Chief of State Omar Torrijos and President Jimmy Carter.

"We consider this to be the culmination of a stage and the initiation of another stage in the process of liberation toward a society in which the Panamanians act as protagonists in our own development in every sector," say the bishops. However, they add: "We are the least likely to believe that this event constitutes the final conquest desired by the Panamanian people. We deplore the ambiguities which overshadowed the final phases of the approval of the treaties."

Several months ago the church asked for greater popular participation in the discussion of the amendments which the U.S. Senate introduced to the original agreements approved here in a plebescite on 23 October 1977. The bishops complain now that their voice was not heard. The government decided to accept the Senate amendments and said that a new plebiscite as demanded by the opposition was not necessary.

The pastoral letter says that "in spite of this we want to give our moral support to the new era on which we are embarking together." The letter adds: "We urge everyone to form a single nationalwill in order to forge a new and just social order in which there is no exploitation of man by man. It will be necessary to find new socioeconomic structures. The church, as does the Lord Himself, unambiguously denounces injustice and preaches fraternity, which is more demanding at the communitarian level than mere social justice. The church openly rejects the hate between groups or classes which some persons promote as the power and mechanism of their struggle for national political power."

In analyzing the Panamanian political structures, they say that they are seriously deficient for the following reasons:

A lack of a clear and proper separation among the three branches of government. (in Panama the executive branch has almost all of the powers);

A lack of efficiency in public administration due to the duplication of functions, a personality cult and improvisation;

A lack of controls over budgets, investments and the handling of public funds;

A lack of representation in the system for electing corregimiento representatives (who in turn elect the president).

According to the episcopal conference, the lack of confidence in the government is increasing "due to the unnecessary delay in realizing the promises of vital importance with respect to certain rights which have been denied or restricted, such as that of true freedom of expression and that of effective participation of the political parties in national life." The bishops add: "We consider inadmissible the fact that certain Marxist cadres pretend to set themselves up as political spokesmen not only of the government, but of the whole nation as well, imposing their opinions with all the authoritarian force that they can muster."

On the deaths at the university and the peasant who had been arrested, the church asks for an impartial and thorough investigation and public revelation of the results. The pastoral letter denounces "the serious and detrimental manipulation of the student body" when certain state organizations grant privileges to youth groups that support its policies.

It recommends to the opposition to, above all, look at the present and to the future "since history does not move backward." It also asks the opposition to recognize the accomplishments of the government. "We believe that the future of Panama is encouraging. We affirm this; nevertheless, we see that it is threatened by internal opposition which can only be overcome when we learn active tolerance which is, in effect, mutual respect," conclude the bishops.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S REPORT FAVORABLE

PA031958Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpts] At the conclusion of the first 6 months of the year, Radio Libertad interviewed Damian Castillo, comptroller general of Panama, who reported on the situation of the budget, income and expenditures for this period, as is customary every 6 months.

[Begin Castillo recording] This is to report to Radio Libertad and, through you, to the entire Panamanian community the results of the central government's budget analysis for the first 6 months of the year. It is as follows:

In ordinary income, the budget requirements for the month of June were set at 36 million balboas; a total 36.7 million were collected.

For the first 6 months, that is, from January to June 1978, the budget called for 185 million balboas in revenues. In reality, a total of 190.5 million balboas were collected. This is a 5.5 million-balboa increase over the budget figure.

With regard to last year, it is important to mention that, for the first 6 months, a total of 166.8 million was collected, so this year's revenue represents a 23.7 million-balboa or a 14.2-percent increase.

Concerning the operating expenditures of the central government, the budget for June 1978 allowed for an expenditure of 32.3 million balboas, but only 30.5 million balboas were actually spent. This resulted in a saving of some 1.8 million balboas.

With regard to the first 6 months of operating expenditures, that is, those covering January to June, the budget estimated that 229.1 million balboas would be required. In reality, we have spent 220.1 million balboas. This represents a saving of 9 million balboas.

With regard to the emergency plan, during the period of January 1 to June 30 the operation of the emergency plan cost 14.5 million balboas. [end recording]

EL SALVADOR

BUSINESSMAN TOMAS MCENTEE RELEASED BY KIDNAPERS

PA041947Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1824 GMT 4 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Santa Ana, El Salvador, 4 Jul (ACAN-EFE)--Industrialist Tomas Adolfo McEntee, who was kidnaped 13 days ago in this city, 66 km west of San Salvador, appeared safe and sound today. McEntee's relatives did not tell the press how he was released.

The businessman was kidnaped at noon on 22 June as he was leaving his store in downtown Santa Ana. So far, none of the ultraleftist organizations operating in this country has claimed credit for the kidnaping.

BRIEFS

TRAINING AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN--Madrid, 28 Jun (EFE)--The labor ministers of Spain and El Salvador, Rafael Calvo Ortega and Roberto Escobar Garcia respectively, today signed a technical cooperation agreement in Madrid. According to the agreement, a delegation of Spanish experts will cooperate in the organization and development of a national professional training program in El Salvador. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0024 GMT 29 Jun 78 PA]

GUATEMALA

MINISTER DISAGREES WITH VICE PRESIDENT'S BELIZE REMARKS

PA110427Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0312 GMT 11 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Jul (AFP)--Guatemalan Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez today said that the statements of Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer regarding Belize do not express the government's official policy. Castillo Valdez said that "it is up to the president of the republic, through the Foreign Ministry, to direct official foreign policy."

The official added that he agrees with the National Liberation Movement (MLN) that the next negotiations on Belize should not be held in Barbados.

In this first public disagreement between high-ranking officials of the new government, the foreign minister said, in disagreement with Villagran Kramer, "that it is not humiliation to discuss the Belize issue in the U.S. capital." "That country," he said, "is a friend which practices democracy." He added that the vice president of the republic has not yet been invited to a forthcoming news conference in which Guatemala's foreign policy will be explained.

HONDURAS

LABOR LEADER RAPS DISREGARD FOR LABOR RIGHTS

PA110402Y San Pedro SULA TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Jul 78 p 2 PA

[Text] "The incumbent regime has demonstrated that it is undergoing its most precarious crisis," said Luis Portillo, president of the Committee on Trade Union Unity, which groups the dissident unions of the Union Federation of Northern Honduras Workers which are now affiliated to the General Workers Central.

He added that this situation is caused by the lack of official respect for civil rights "because all the state secretariats serve the darkest interests for the benefit of the privileged."

He also noted that "the crisis is also engendered by the lack of political, economic and administrative decisions since the reformist plan adopted in 1972 has been completely abandoned."

"For that matter, the Labor Ministry itself threatens and fires its workers. They are even beaten. Secretary Nohemi Enamorado was shamelessly attacked by her own boss in her own office."

Portillo said that other examples are the illegal recognition of executive boards which run counter to the workers' interests.

"That is the case of the Unified Union of Standard Fruit Company workers," he said. "It is obvious: There are 6,000 workers, but the minister needed only 35 to serve the interests of a transnational which exploits us."

He also mentioned the problems of Corsa and Bemis-Handal "where the workers challenged the alleged official recognition of an executive board which caters to the interests of the privileged."

Portillo gave assurances that the workers are not involved in the Labor Ministry's policy-making "because the views of the major labor movement leaders are not taken into consideration."

He also complained about the shortcomings in the labor code, "particularly those related to the labor court trials. It not only permits management to order massive layoffs but it does a disservice to workers because some trials last more than 5 years."

He also complained about "the indifference of the Education Ministry as far as deciding to conduct a cultural training program which covers all Honduran social strata."

"We have," Portillo said, "the clear example of the maneuvers of the lady minister who refuses to find a just solution to the problem of the Cabanas students simply because she is determined to serve the interests of the so-called ANDIEPH." [not further identified]

"The students who go to the transnational educational monopolies should join the struggle because, in the long run, even they will be affected by the compromising intentions of the lady minister," Portillo suggested.

Regarding job training, he said: "I think this process is not stagnant, as some sectors would like. What is happening now is that its development is slower, particularly as regards the organization of the nonunionized workers."

On this subject he said that the lack of respect for freedom to unionize creates fears in the workers through threats of dismissal and because the state does not guarantee that right to workers even though it is set forth in our laws.

Regarding the American Institute for Free Labor Development, he contended that it is by no means advisable "that organizations financed by transnational enterprises should be allowed to teach about workers' rights. That organization is not only prejudicial to labor interests, but it is an obstacle to the achievement of the workers' goals."

SULA TIEMPO COMMENTS ON DISREGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PA102013Y San Pedro SULA TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Jun 78 p 2 PA

[Unattributed commentary: "Infrahuman Rights"]

[Text] As suspense mounted--in an Agatha Christie novel costing 300,000 lempiras--regarding the macabre discovery in the well on the San Jorge estate, followed immediately by the other event in which we paid 500,000 lempiras for direct contact with the crazy World Cup games in Argentina, many things went unnoticed by the good-natured Honduran people.

We wish to refer to two of those things today.

First, we wish to announce to our compatriots that our government (which swears by God and on its honor, loyalty and sacrifice that it respects human rights) became a member of the group which opposes strengthening those rights by "becoming a close ally" of its colleagues in Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Within this group, our envoys to the eighth OAS General Assembly were perfectly at home. It is known that not until today will they have the opportunity to vote against human rights in the talks that are underway in the U.S. capital.

The second thing we wish to mention is the first indication of antihuman rights sentiment demonstrated by our new "delegates" when they refrained from participating in the voting to approve inspection by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the massacred Republic of Nicaragua, where Somoza the dictator does as he wishes with the lives of Nicaraguans.

Happily, Honduras was on the losing side at the OAS assembly, since no less than 16 Latin American countries were determined to have human rights respected, even if this displeases the 7 strongman governments which were Honduras' companions.

The fact is that here in Honduras--cradle of injustice, unemployment, malnutrition, illiteracy, a lack of housing, hunger, neglect, poverty, drug trafficking, people in wells, corruption and poor health--human rights (which could better be called infrahuman rights) receive the same attention as that miserable woman received fromthe boor who placed an old shoe in her mouth as she was sleeping in drunken misery. [reference to photo accompanying commentary in which an old woman is shown sleeping on a sidewalk with a shoe over her mouth]

Naturally, blame for this cannot be placed on our lady army capitan, on our lady of Suyapa or on Miss Honduras, who now has the rank of lieutenant colonel.

NICARAGUA

FOUR KILLED AS POLICE DISPERSE DEMONSTRATORS

PA101513Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Four persons, three young students and one adult male, were killed last night in the city of Jinotepe when police dispersed a demonstration that was marching through the city.

Reports indicate that the incidents began when unidentified persons fired at an elementary school located in the outskirts of the city, wounding a child. Enraged, the people and students took to the streets in a demonstration which was intercepted by police. Police fired shots and used tear gas grenades, while the demonstrators hurled contact bombs [bombas de contacto] and stones.

The reported toll is 4 dead and 15 injuried. A wake is being held in the regional center of the National University for the youth who were killed during the incident. Various sectors of the community are in attendance.

Military Court To Investigate

PA110345Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0205 GMT 11 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Jinotepe, Nicaragua, 10 Jul (ACAN-EFE)--Approximately 10,000 persons from every social level participated this afternoon in the combined funeral of the four secondary school students who died during yesterday's disturbances in this city in southern Nicaragua. Thousands of youths carried red and black banners, insignia of the Sandinist National Liberation Front. Sandinist demands for "punishment for the murderers" and accusations against the government of Gen Anastasio Somoza were heard during the funeral procession which left the university in the center of the city and arrived at the cemetery in the western sector at nightfall under a persistent drizzle.

Inside the cemetery one could again hear the explosion of the bombs built by youths who have made these devices their symbol of protest against the government. Shots fired into the air were also heard. Tonight there was fear of a repetition of clashes between antigovernment demonstrators and reinforced army patrols. The military commander of the area, Col Miguel Blessing, claims that the shots which killed the four students yesterday were fired by civilians.

Meanwhile, from Managua came the announcement of the appointment of a military investigations court which will go to Jinotepe tomorrow in an effort by the army leadership to establish the facts.

SANDINIST LEADER DETAILS FOREIGN AID FOR SOMOZA

PA110430Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0233 GMT 11 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Jul (AFP)--A Sandinist guerrilla leader has said here that no one can predict what will occur in Nicaragua when Anastasio Somoza falls because of the diversity of the opposition forces that are struggling against him.

Plutarco Hernandez Sancho, one of the six members of the leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, told foreign mewsmen that "the Somoza dictatorship must be replaced by a popular and revolutionary regime supported by the broad opposition front."

The Sandinist leader was careful in differentiating the Sandinist Front from the "opposition bourgeoisie." He said that the people will obtain power only with weapons in hand, as is already traditional in his country.

He accused Argentina, Brazil and anti-Castro Cubans of providing aid to the Somoza regime. He said that the Argentines have sent specialists, weapons and ammunition, some of which have been captured by the Sandinists in their attacks on the military forces.

He added that 150 anti-Castro Cubans have entered Nicaragua or are currently doing so to join antiguerrilla units.

He said that Brazil has sent two or three specialists trained in the antiguerrilla school in Panama. Argentina has sent eight specialists who have been hired "sureptitiously."

Hernandez Sancho included assassinated newsman and opposition leader Pedro Joaquin Chamorro among the members of the opposition bourgeoisie, although he added that Chamorro had the important advantage of not playing the game of alternating power with Somoza. He added that Chamorro, who died 6 months ago today, was, among the bourgeois figures of opposition in his country, the alternative of change who was looked upon favorably by the United States and Western nations.

"Chamorro was a difficult obstacle for Somoza in his effort to maintain himself in power. That is why Somoza had him eliminated," Hernandez Sancho said.

The Nicaraguan guerrilla was in reality born in Costa Rica. He had been imprisoned there when President Rodrigo Carazo recently pardoned him.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ DEFENDS CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

LD101427Y Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 2 Jul 78 p 7 LD

[Carmen Pereira interview with Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez: "There Is Not a Single Cuban in Africa Who Was Not Invited by a Legitimate Government"--date and place not given]

[Text] Question: Mobutu says that he holds several prisoners of Cuban origin. What truth is there in that statement?

Answer: Well, I have just learned of this from a PRENSA LATINA agency report.

It is clear that there has been an interest which is connected, in our opinion, with the now public split among President Carter's advisers into two factions--one headed by Brzezinski, which is pursuing a cold war policy of blackmail, and the faction headed by Vance, with which we could also include Young's policy toward the events in Africa, which is pursuing the process of detente on the basis of negotiation. When the earlier events occurred more than a year ago, which took President Fidel by surprise in the midst of a visit to Africa--I had the privilege of accompanying him at that time--we were the first to be surprised by what was happening. It has been clear since then that we have no political relations with Nathaniel Mbumba.

We do not judge his struggle, but there are some aspects which seem clear to us. We do not wish to cast any cloud of suspicion on his conduct, but we know, of course, that the CIA is interested in penetrating all these movements. To what extent they have caused this group of Katangese to commit repeated provocations through skillful penetration is something that remains to be seen but which must be examined. Now Mobutu comes out with these statements. There is little to say about Mobutu, unless it be to describe him. He is undoubtedly, among the leaders of the entire world, perhaps the most corrupt, and a man, moreover, who is totally subject to the Western powers and has facilitated what can now be regarded as a veritable recolonization maneuver. The French presence in Zaire cannot be explained otherwise, nor can the policy mapped out by Giscard since the events in Shaba: The organization of an African force directed, assisted and organized by NATO is, as an African figure said, a recolonization maneuver which Africans are already rejecting--at least all Africans not involved in that maneuver. Thus, Mobutu has no credit with world opinion. We can say this: There is no chance of Mobutu's presenting Cubans involved in the Shaba operation to public opinion or journalists. We are waiting for him to do so, and he will undoubtedly be completely unmasked sooner or later.

Question: So the launching of the war could be a maneuver in order to seek the support of the European countries, or else the European countries have used that maneuver in order once more...

Answer: We view the matter from a different angle: The launching of the war, instigated by a group interested in recovering their country's freedoms, such as the Katangese group--which undoubtedly has a secessionist history, although they now say that they have a policy of unity--would prove and already proved at the time of Fidel's previous visit to Africa extremely opportune for launching a political struggle against the presence of Cuba and the USSR in Africa, under the pretext that it is a presence of a political nature which is endangering African stability. This presence is a presence which no head of state has been able to contest because it is an authorized presence, since it was requested by the legitimate governments of Angola and Ethiopia. Thus, as Zambian President Kaunda said in his statements in Washington and Jamaica, there is not a single Cuban in Africa who was not invited by a legitimate government.

But the events coincide suspiciously with the aim of provoking public debate and, at the same time, implementing a neocolonialist policy of recolonizing Africa. Thus, when what could be an internal struggle among the Katangese to restore democracy in their country and also to regain political control over the province from which they were expelled is examined in this context, it becomes at the same time an intelligence operation from which all these political consequences stem.

"CIA Is Capable of Going Beyond Its Own Chiefs"

Question: Did the Chinese presence in this conflict come before or coincide with the latest events?

Answer: China's presence in the conflict dates back, as you will recall, to the events of the Angola war. At the time the CIA began to operate in Angola, there was a simultaneous Chinese presence, training Mobutu's troops and the troops of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

I do not know whether you are acquainted with the most recent book about the CIA, by Stockwell, called "In Search of Enemies." Stockwell was the chief of the CIA operation in Angola and, nauseated by the nature of the CIA's work, which reached the depths on this occasion, he highlights how this operation was prepared on the direct orders of Kissinger and a decision on the part of the CIA's top echelon. But there is something more than that: The book reveals how the CIA at middle levels and even central [centro] levels in a country is capable of going beyond what its own chiefs and the U.S. Government itself order.

Question: The policy and strategy of France and Belgium have not been the same. It is said that Belgium supported Katangese seccession in a kind of new Tshombe operation to preserve its interests, whereas France prefers to keep Mobutu in order to establish itself throughout Zaire. Would you care to enlarge on this analysis?

Answer: It is impossible to choose between the French and Belgian stances because both represent different but very clearly defined interests. The Belgians' role in the Congo was a sinister one. It must now be said, however, that it was more cautious. They had defined their operation as a rescue operation: In the form in which they had planned it, through negotiation with the forces involved in the fighting, it would have given rise, in our opinion, to the possibility of rescuing the white population without provoking a massacre, whereas the way in which the French carried out the operation led directly to conflict and thus provoked the massacre. Nobody doubts that some of the participants--the military chief of the operation, it is said--deliberately brought about the situation. There is information which causes us to suspect that there was some element of this in the situation.

Question: Perhaps we ought to talk a little about the problem of Eritrea and the possibility of a confrontation between Cuban forces and the Eritrean liberation movements, which Havana supported not long ago.

Answer: Fidel Castro was very categorical about this on an occasion of great significance because it was during President Mengistu's visit to Cuba. He defined the Cuban stance in this way: Cuba advocates a political and not military solution to the Eritrean conflict. Cuba advocates a solution to this conflict on the basis of and in accordance with the viewpoints of Marxism-Leninism with respect to the national problem, that is, problems of self-determination are involved in this in different ways.

All this must be discussed by the parties concerned--the central government and the representatives of Eritrea. There is another aspect which seems essential to us: respect for Ethiopia's territorial integrity. In addition, we can say that those who are interested in this problem being resolved politically must struggle to prevent the reactionary Arab states and certain imperialist forces from turning the Eritrean problem into an international problem. In that case, the situation really would become extraordinarily complicated.

Question: What has been said in Europe is that the delaying, first, of possible Cuban armed intervention in Eritrea and next the indefinite postponement of that intervention are due to strong pressure from certain African liberation movements and, in particular, from the Palestinians. Is that true?

Answer: We could say it is not. Cuba's stance has been clearly defined from the outset. If our principles are in agreement with the stances of some European and other political forces or those of the Palestinians, we are glad about that, but in fact there has been delay from the very outset with respect to what is not in keeping with the course of events. We have always said that we advocate a political solution. If we are told that we used to support the Eritreans, we say that that is so. We supported even the autonomist and secessionist movements when Ethiopia was under Haile Selassie. Ethiopia was under savage African feudalism. If there was a revolution, we, as revolutionaries, had to examine the situation and the new context and judge the situation within that context. It is precisely for this reason that we say that what is necessary now is a political solution, for both sides.

Question: Historically, the problem remains the same: Eritrea was forcibly annexed by the Negus, without any justification. And Megistu is maintaining that connection.

Answer: We have followed the same principle there: Previously, when the central government was a feudal and reactionary government, there was no political solution to that problem, but now that there is a revolutionary government, there is a political solution to that problem. Thus, just as we advocated territorial unity as opposed to tribal separatism in Angola, we are opposed to separatism in Eritrea. But we believe that political discussions could lead to solutions positive for both sides. We do not wish to express any opinions beyond that.

Question: And how many Cubans are there in Africa?

Answer: Well, that is another problem. We say, for instance--and it is very important to point this out--that when the general Security Council [as published] published that famous map in which Cuba was everywhere at Brzezinski's instigation about a year ago, there was an obvious falsification. For instance, we were supposed to have 150 men in Sierra Leone, whereas what we had in fact were 5 people training the militia. We are not interested in making the CIA's military work easier. It is the CIA which must investigate this. Let the governments say how many men we have.

ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS ARRIVE IN HAVANA

FL101604Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jul 78 FL

[Text] Guillermo Garcia Frias, commander of the revolution and Politburo member, this afternoon at the port in Havana received the hundreds of Ethiopian youths who will be studying in Cuba. The Ethiopian sutdents, between 9 and 16 years old, are for the most part the sons of combatants of Ethiopian militia and army men who fell while repulsing the Somali aggression. The group that arrived today is accompanied by 12 teachers.

The youth from that young African nation will be studying in schools on the Isle of Youth. One of the schools is called Karramarra, in memory of Cuban and Ethiopian combatants who fell in that region of Ethiopia.

The Cuban ship transporting the students [the Africa-Cuba] was acquired by our revolutionary government to provide maximum confort for the passengers. In addition to passengers, the ship can transport commercial cargo. On 9 May Ethiopian chief of state Mengistu Haile Mariam bade farewell to the students who today arrived in Cuba to study on the Isle of Youth.

COMMENTARIES FLAY PRC'S ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT NONALINED

FL080200Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jul 78 FL

[Armando Lopez Junco commentary]

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier Keng Piao will begin a tour of Caribbean and African countries next week to encourage the campaign against the nonalined movement in general and, in particular, against Cuba and other progressive countries that are in the movement. A PRENSA LATINA report issued in Paris citing the French paper LE MONDE as its source states that the Peking regime has initiated a campaign to denigrate the movement on the eve of the next foreign ministers meeting of nonalined member countries that will be held soon in Belgrade, which will precede the next summit to be held in Havana in September next year.

What factors are motivating the Peking regime in this campaign? This is something that requires a brief review of the past.

The nonalined movement, founded in the decade of the 1960's by a group of underdeveloped countries, among them Cuba, has evolved from its beginning with the old thesis of neutrality to a frank anti-imperialist position. The nonalined movement represents the advanced policy of the countries of the so-called Third World, and their development, unity and progressive ideological advance have, among other things, made it possible to condemn colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, apartheid and Zionism as a manifestation of racism in important international forums, among them the United Nations.

In another area, during the fourth summit conference of the movement held in Algiers in 1973, the Cuban delegation requested and received unanimous support from the participants at the event for an indissoluble tie between the nonalined countries and the socialist community, which is the natural ally of the underdeveloped countries. This was the triumphant thesis of the Cuban delegation, headed on that occasion by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the maximum leader of the Cuban revolution, and during the course of the summit itself Cuba went on to proclaim its break in relations with the Zionist regime of Israel.

The defeat of the imperialists in Vietnam, of the imperialist and racist plot in Angola and the Somali aggression against the revolutionary Ethiopian Government should have emphasized the progressive character of the movement and, as a counterpart, its hatred for the imperialists by the movement's most outstanding members.

At this point, the campaign was initiated by the Somali regime of Siad Barre, who, following the defeat of his adventure against Ethiopia, invented the idea that Cuba is not a nonalined country. The strange statement was repeated by the imperialist circles and their followers. U.S. President James Carter repeated Barre's statement on three consecutive occasions: in an interview in Chicago, in a speech at the Annapolis Naval Academy and at a luncheon held for Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai during his visit to the United States to attend the UN General Assembly. The absurd accusations have been repeated by such disreputable regimes as that of Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire; the Morocan official daily MAGHREB; and they are joined by some theoreticians who stubbornly hold to a neutrality already surpassed who, directly or indirectly, are working to blunt the anti-imperialist edge of the movement and dismember it or even to have it oppose the socialist community.

The Cuban position, nevertheless, was perfectly defined by PCC Politburo member Guillermo Garcia upon recently saluting the Yugoslav League of Communists congress held in June. The Cuban leader stated that in Africa we are alined against the intervention by imperialists and NATO colonialist power; in the Middle East we are alined with the Arab peoples against Zionism, armed and maintained by the North American imperialists; in Asia we are alined with the long-suffering Vietnamese people, who carried out one of the most heroic battles in history for their liberty and independence. Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia stressed that, therefore, we are a country that is not alined with imperialism, neocolonialism, racism, Zionism or apartheid.

It is logical that the Peking rulers, in vicious alliance with the worst imperialist forces, second them in their attempts to sabotage the movement, and especially Cuba, the socialist countries and the sixth summit to be held in Havana. But do not doubt that the most resounding defeat is awaiting them not only in these matters but also in the attempt to heave the nonalined countries confront their natural allies--the socialist community--no matter how many forces are at play, or the number of stale theoreticians or corrupt regimes such as the one of Peking or Kinshasa who join in this effort.

10 July GRANMA Comment

PA101720Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[Text] The Cuban paper GRANMA today scores the intense campaign unleashed by imperialism, its NATO allies and the new Chinese leadership in an attempt to divide and neutralize the nonalined movement. This infamous maneuver, the paper says, has three main objectives: to isolate the movement from international political problems, to strip it of its marked anti-imperialistic attitude and to obstruct Cuba's action within the movement in order to sabotage the sixth summit meeting scheduled to meet in Cuba in 1979.

GRANMA adds that the growing force and popularity of the movement on the international scene have forced the enemies of peace and nonalinement to change their methods of aggression. Instead of frontal attacks, they are now trying to undermine the foundations of the movement from within.

To achieve their objectives, GRANMA continues, the United States, NATO and the Chinese leaders are trying to isolate the movement from the socialist community by charging the USSR with alleged hegemonic aspirations. By the same token, they warn about the so-called Cuban threat in an attempt to confuse international opinion about the internationalist and solidary actions of Cuba and other socialist nations.

Cuba's position responds to the principles of the nonalined movement, which establish the duty to lend assistance in the event of foreign aggression and to support the national liberation movements, GRANMA explains.

GRANMA concludes by saying that the problems directly affecting the nonalined nations will probably be brought up at the foreign ministers meeting in Belgrade later this month.

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM BULGARIA CEMA MEETING

FL10203Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2003 GMT 10 Jul 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban delegation from the State Committee for Standardization, headed by Minister-President Ramon Darias Rodes, which attended the 43d CEMA permanent committee on standardization meeting returned to Havana today. During their stay in Bulgaria, the site of the event, the Cuban specialists participated in a review of the development program on standardization in the CEMA member countries. They also held work meetings with their counterpart organization in Czechoslovakia to study the development of joint activities for this year and 1979.

Remarking on the CEMA permanent committee on standardization, Darias Rodes stated upon his arrival at Jose Marti International Airport that the meeting made a new contribution to the cooperation maintained in this field by the socialist countries.

50 CUBAN DOCTORS TO BE SENT TO ALGERIA

FL111236Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1148 GMT 11 Jul 78 FL

[Text] Manuel Gutierrez, vice president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, has announced in Algiers that 50 Cuban doctors will arrive shortly in Algeria as part of the aid our country provides to that African nation.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PRD CALLS FOR 'DAY OF PRAYER' PROTEST

PA101640Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0144 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 9 Jul (AFP)--The Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] tonight urged its members to observe a 24-hour period of "silence and prayer" from tomorrow until Wednesday to protest the recent ruling of the Central Electoral Board, which gave four additional senatorial seats to the Reformist Party [PR].

In a communique to this effect, the PRD explains that it will engage in "a day of exemplary withdrawal, rejecting, from wherever it may come, any action that would violate the legality and pacifism of its political attitude." The opposition party goes on to state that "it welcomes and admits as valid the [word indistinct] ruling as far as confirmation of preliminary election results is concerned, to the effect of ratifying the election of Antonio Guzman and Jacobo Majluta as president and vice president, respectively, and of the other elected officials." On the other hand, it rejects the board's ruling regarding the four senators, which gives the PR a 16-senator majority against the PRD's 11 in the future congress.

It will also take action before the appropriate organizations, demanding rectification of "the unusual decision that attempts to snatch congressional seats from us." The document states that "the day of withdrawal is not a strike movement, since the PRD does not plan to use this means in the present situation because we are engineering legal action to counter the dispossession in question."

GUYANA

HAVANA REPORTS REFERENDUM PROCEEDING PEACEFULLY

PA101903Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Jul 78 PA

[Text] According to official reports from Georgetown, voting on whether or not Guyana needs a new constitution is being carried out normally and peacefully. According to the government of that country, the referendum will facilitate the introduction of a new constitution to replace the present one, which was adopted during British colonial rule. Meanwhile, the Guyanese opposition has called for abstention from the elections because it believes that this voting will cause the postponement of general elections due to be held this year.

JAMAICA

GLEANER SCORES GUYANESE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

FL081825Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jul 78 p 1 FL

[Editorial]

[Text] Prime Minister Forbes Burnham of Guyana and his government have ignored all pleas to think again, and the constitutional referendum will take place on Monday, July 10. There is no doubt that Mr. Burnham's manipulation of the overseas electoral lists will assure him the usual victory. Indeed, his government has shown its contempt for the electorate by creating the symbol of a house, suggesting security, for the "yes" voters, and that of a rat (a deserter) for the "no" voters.

The Ministry of Information, which controls the press rigidly, has continued to give only a one-sided picture of the referendum issues, and has had the gall to state that people having seen the reports of the arguments in the press no longer oppose the referendum.

Overseas Guyanese in Jamaica have received their ballot papers--and despite assurance that the ballot is secret, it is obvious that it won't be, and the government will know exactly who voted and how.

We repeat our alarm that a government intends to use its control over a corrupt electoral system to remove the safeguards in the constitution requiring an appeal to the voters when the system of government or of elections is to be changed. This amounts to a rape of democracy which will shame all those who still believe that democracy is possible in the Caribbean.

It is shocking that a government which has stated that it runs a socialist co-operative republic should seek to guarantee its hold on power by depriving the people of participation--the people it claims it wishes to serve.

In desperation, and frustrated over their inadequacy against the might of a corrupt electoral machinery, opposition forces which include Marxists, leftists and rightists have now called for a boycott of the referendum--which in effect is a formal conceding of the election to Mr. Burnham.

GREEN BAY WARRANTS ISSUED, NOT EXECUTED

FL081830Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jul 78 pp 1, 13 FL

[Excerpt] The police information centre reported yesterday that the bench warrants issued on Tuesday for 10 members of the Jamaica Defence Force were not executed up to 6:40 yesterday evening.

A high court judge at the St. Catherine Circuit Court signed seven warrants from murder and five for conspiracy to murder arising from the killing of five civilians at the military firing range, Green Bay, on January 5.

However, if the warrants are not executed by July 20, when the St. Catherine Circuit Court goes on recess, then those charged will be taken before any puisne judge, as the warrants which were issued on the application of the director of public prosecutions, Mr. Ian Forte, state that the 10 may appear before any puisne judge so that a date may be set for trial.

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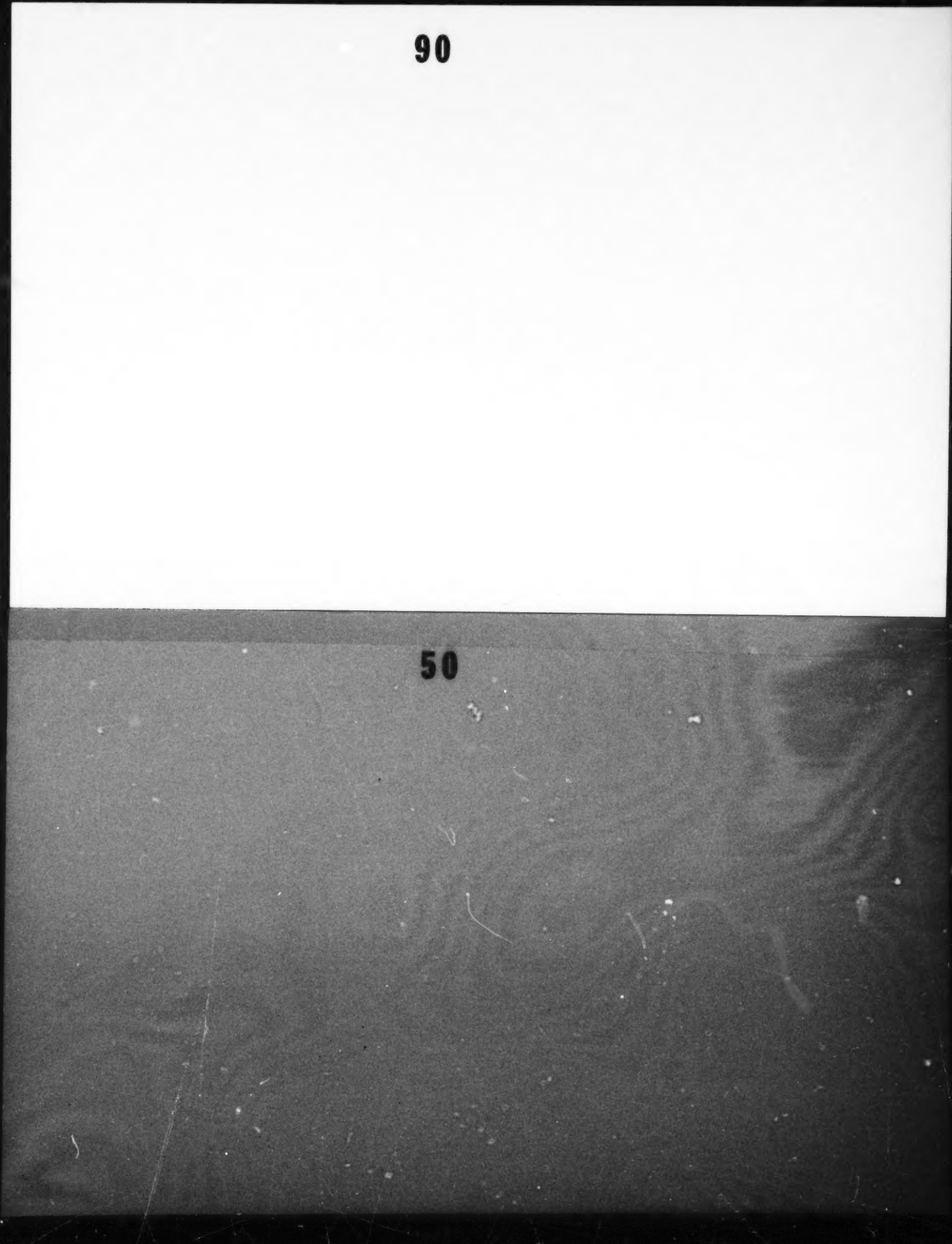
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